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Paradise Found

Indoor-Outdoor Style Near the Pacific

PLUS

- Cool Kitchen & Bath Trends
- High-Impact, Low-Care Plants
- Summer Fun in Humboldt County

August/September 2009

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

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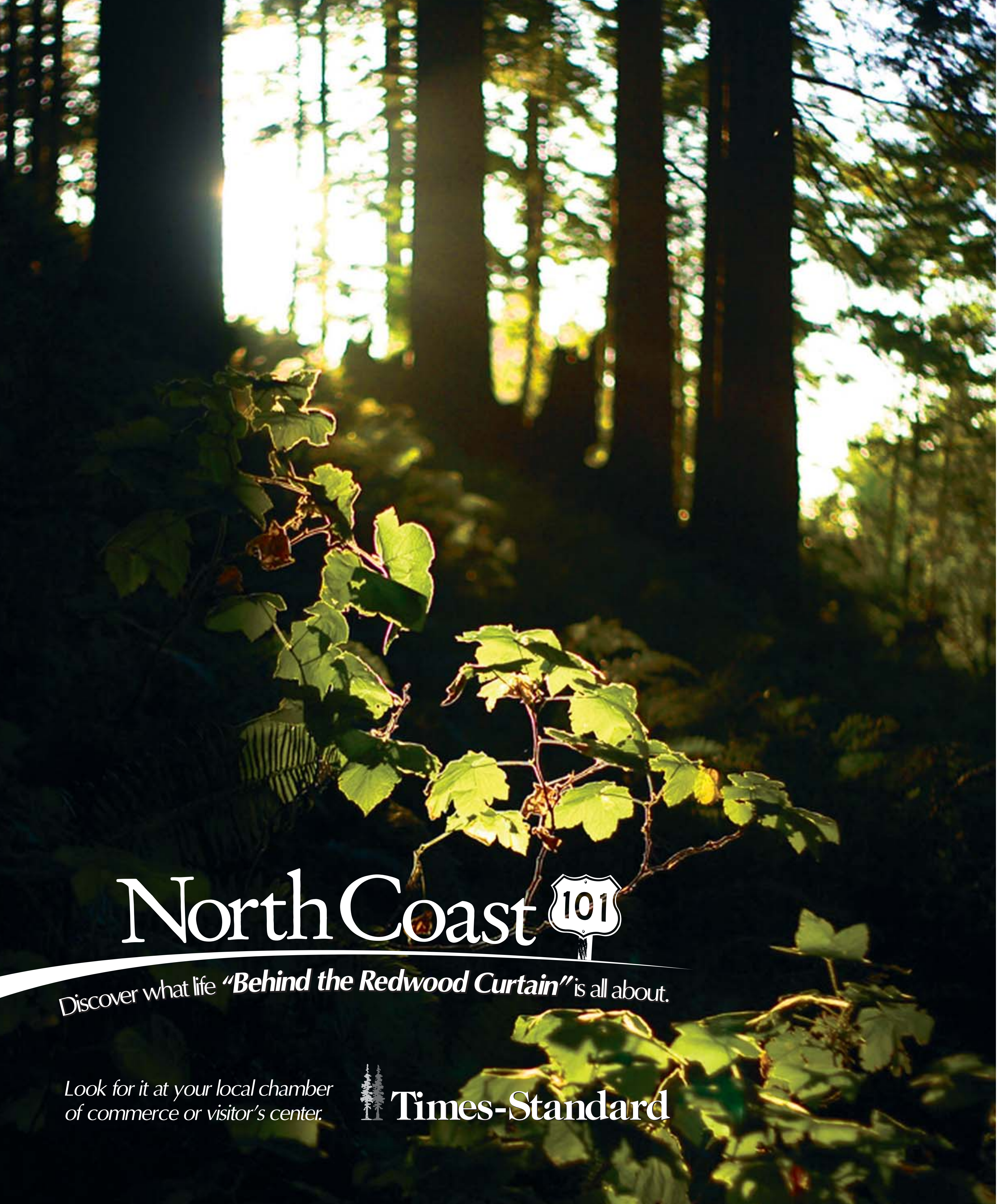

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ON THE COVER / ABOVE: At this modern Arts & Crafts-style home designed by the Eureka firm of John Ash, a sunken octagonal fountain (*cover*), surrounded by a garden of miniature plants, is just as delightful as another view: the Pacific Ocean. Both vistas are enjoyed thanks to thoughtful landscaping and architecture. Echoing the style of the garden space is this nearby fire pit (*above*), which serves as a warm draw on cool days and evenings. Photos by Brian Smeets. **TOP RIGHT:** Honeysuckle "Graham Thomas" is just one of the high-flair, low-maintenance flowers you can plant to make life easier. Photo provided by Timber Press.

Best in Show

Check out the most innovative and stylish new products to win rave reviews at the recent Kitchen/Bath Industry Show

By Denise Gee

▲ Double Duty

Two ovens in the space of one truly is possible thanks to GE's new Profile Series Single-Double Oven. The larger lower unit (which can hold a 22-pound turkey) features convection cooking; the slimmer top oven is geared to casseroles, pizzas, and the like. About $2,500; geappliances.com or 800/626-2005 for dealers.

◀ Side Swiper

Many shower spray units wind up being wrestled like snakes, but not the Hahnsgrohe SideWay Showerpanel. In a satin chrome finish, it houses a concealed hose that glides in and out, plus five body sprays. $2,100; hansgrohe-usa.com or 800/334-0455 for dealers.

▼ Coffee Mate

Míele's streamlined CVA 2662 Coffee System offers quick, beautifully brewed coffee and espresso (thanks to unique Nespresso capsules), and clean-touch steel. It holds 20 coffee capsules and customizable user profiles. It also touts automatic cleaning, a height-adjustable dispenser, a frothing component for cappuccino, and a host of other features. $2,450; miele.com or 800/883-4537 for dealers.

▲ Clear Winner

Sub-Zero's glass-front wine refrigerator (style 427R) offers eight roller-glide shelves for wine and two refrigerated drawers underneath. Both individually controlled wine zones hold 78 bottles, and the lockable unit, featuring a softly lit display shelf for prized bottles, can sport classic, platinum, carbon stainless, or custom wood panels. Price varies; subzero.com or 800/222-7820 for dealers.

▶ Lace Grace

CaesarStone offers the look of embossed lace in their Motivo line of non-porous, carefree quartz (with other lines offering similarly unexpected textured patterns, such as crocodile). About $100 to $150 per square foot, installed; caesarstoneus.com or 877/978-2789 for dealers.

▲ Layered Look

Kohler's Stages chef-inspired trough-style sinks (in 33- and 45-inch widths) feature a variety of perfect-fit accessories (think cutting boards, trays, and the like) for cooking prep and cleanup. From $1,050; kohler.com or 800/456-4537 for dealers.

▶ Safe Bet

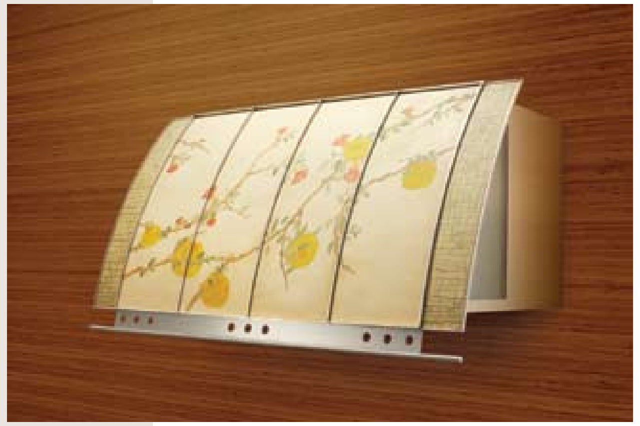
HealthCraft's Invisia Accent Ring Support Rail is decidedly a sleeker look for a tub than the usual unimaginative, industrial-style safety bar. In chrome or white (about $225); healthcraftproducts.com or 888/619-9992 for dealers.

▶ Luxury Liners

Toto offers the Waza Miyabi line of gorgeously hand-painted bathroom furnishings with seasonal themes, such as this "Pine Tree" line. Not so noticeable is that each piece is geared to water conservation (the toilet needs only 1.28 gallons per flush, and etched faucet only 1.5 gallons per minute). From $10,000 each; tototusa.com or 888/295-8134 for dealers.

▲ Glass Housing

The newest look in shower doors is on a roll thanks to Fleurco Product's Kinetik Slice, a 90-pound barn-style glass door that moves at the push of a finger. It retrofits to 66"W and 78 3/4"H or can be customized. In varying styles of glass, it's a great compact way to conceal both a shower and toilet room. Price varies; fleurco.com or 800/993-0033 for dealers.



▲ Exhausting the Options

Ventilation hoods need not be heavy-metal clunkers. Witness Zephyr's Padova line, dreamed up by renowned designer Fu-Tung Cheng. Hoods can be customizable with the materials of your choosing—mosaic tile, patterned glass, decorative plaster, and the like (such as this custom frescoe of a Japanese garden on Japanese plaster). From $3,700; zephyronline.com or 888/880-8368 for dealers.

▶ All for One

Fagor's Washer/Dryer Combo unit, taking up 3 cubic feet and holding 13-pound loads, is truly a space- and time-saver. An LCD screen offers access to 16 programs, including a delayed start function. What's more, it doesn't even require exhaust ductwork, making it perfect for restrictive areas. In silver ($1,100) or white ($1,000); fagoramerica.com or 800/207-0806 for retailers.

▲ Steam Power

LG's energy- and water-efficient TrueSteam Washer (shown here in Riviera Blue) is the largest-capacity front-load washer on the market, touting superior steam cleaning prowess (which, for the matching TrueSteam Dryer, helps leave clothes wrinkle and odor free). Plus, an anti-vibration system makes the duo ideal for second-floor laundry rooms. $1,599 for washer; $1,499 for dryer; lge.com or 800/243-0000 for dealers.

▲ Turbo Engine

How about roasting a 12-pound turkey in about 40 minutes? That's the inner beauty of the 30-inch TurboChef SpeedCook Oven, which uses convection and microwaves to get its work done quickly, crisply, and tenderly. The outer beauty touts such two-tone finishes as stainless with white, black, ivory, charcoal, hearth orange, thermal red, and evening blue. $6,000; turbochef.com or 866/543-6569 for retailers.

▲ Plum Perfect

Viking's 30-inch Electric Induction Range with convection oven is the only self-cleaning range in the industry—and boasts the largest oven cavity going. It features energy-efficient and safety-minded induction technology, plus two dozen cool finishes, including this plum one. About $6,500; vikingrange.com or 888/845-4641 for retailers. ■

PARADISE FOUND

On the Lost Coast, a home known as Seawood serves as a peaceful oasis of indoor-outdoor connectedness

By Denise Gee
Photography by Brian Smeets

Their happy ending began with a desire to see this region's redwoods. Midwesterners Kay and Ron (last name omitted for privacy) had landed in Ferndale after beginning their Pacific Coast road trip in Vancouver, B.C. Once here, though, "We were overwhelmed by the beauty," says Kay. "The people and the art and the architecture—it was just too perfect." She and Ron decided they might one day retire to the region. But on a lark, just to see what was available, they met with a real estate agent. That's when they were introduced to even more beauty—100 acres perched over the Pacific, with 180-degree views of pristine nature. And that, shall we say, was that. Within three months, they would chuck retirement plans for telecommuting—and own the place.

To do the property justice, the couple tapped the firm of Eureka architect John Ash to help them design a home featuring indoor-outdoor connectivity and the creative use of natural materials. Naturally that led the couple and the design team to think of legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright, the undisputed master of organic, clean-lined Craftsman style, whose work took root in the Midwest. "We wanted the house to blend in—not overtake the land," says Kay, who, to ensure its welcome status, even took a small piece of spruce bark to match the paint color for the exterior.

Now, six years later, the couple calls their home Seawood—a place, Kays says, where "the sounds of surf, seabirds, and seals meet the woodland songbirds, frogs,

Rosy Glow: A stone-encircled fire pit (*right*), mimicking the hexagonal style of the water garden (*previous page*), makes for a warming magnet in the evening; surrounding pots of roses add vibrant focal points during the day. The gathering space is sheltered by wind and given a sense of privacy from a fence that, with spaced slats, allows nature to peek through. A built-in mirror helps reflect the Pacific while also creating a faux opening.

Rising to the Occasion: Native wildflowers such as daisies abound in the hills just outside the home's low stone wall (*below left*). "This region is plant nirvana," Kay says. The house was designed to rise naturally amidst the wildflowers, while more contained plant displays could be cultivated closer to the home. There, a courtyard water garden (*previous page*) features a variety of miniature plants, including conifers, roses, heaths, heathers, Japanese maple, English hawthorn, birch, and elm, as well as small lanterns and statuary. Eldorado stone lends an organic quality to the home's exterior while cantilevered and notched wooden beams in Pacific Coast style nod to modern Craftsman design. The 4,200-square-foot home lives larger thanks to several outdoor living areas, including a covered outdoor kitchen just steps from the inside kitchen. Overall, "it's a little bit of rustic, a little bit contemporary—just like the region," Ron says.

Raised Expectations: Raised planters (*right*) harbor a cutting garden that includes an array of stalwart Dutch Iris "Silvery Beauty" (along with bearded iris, dahlias, ranunculus, and tulips). Elsewhere Kay grows a bay leaf tree, Meyer lemon tree, half-high blueberry bushes, herbs, and a variety of vegetables. "Raised beds are good for drainage," she says. "They're easier for weeding and picking produce, too."

Kay's Design Philosophies

Employ covered indoor-outdoor spaces. Considering our climate, "It's very nice to have a walkable spot around the house without having to get wet."

Connect the indoor décor with the outdoors. Not just through architecture, "but by linking interior art to outdoor colors and flowers."

Use local materials/plants. "It's really nice to look at what's appearing in nature to help everything blend with the landscape."

"Paint" with plants. "To me, gardening is living art. And in the same way as creating art, you need to look at scale, balance, and color."

Know that color affects mood. "I went with more of a pastel theme for serenity, but if I'd wanted more energy outside, I would have used more vibrant colors."

Plant for all four seasons. "If nothing's happening in your garden during a particular season, take a drive around and see what's happening elsewhere."

Celebrate regional rhythms and materials. "Don't struggle to get a plant to grow in a place it doesn't want to grow in. Celebrate where you are instead of where you want to be."

and wind in the trees." It's a 4,200-square foot home that lives twice that size, in large part due an abundance of picture windows, glass doors, and skylights, as well as several outdoor living areas.

The latter is where nature is displayed at its finest, thanks to Kay being a master gardener. But going from gardening zone 5 to zone 9 wasn't a breeze. "There's a whole other palette of plants available here"—such as varieties of heath, heather, and hebe—that she's enjoying getting to know (even creating a binder to capture images and information about each one). "What makes this climate so unique is that we don't have extreme heat and cold, which makes it so easy to grow things here—and well. I can assume a plant will be only three feet here and it will grow to five feet," she says with a smile. And, as an extra bonus, because of the high humidity, "you can smell the flowers a lot more here."

Through architecture that plays up the landscape and the Pacific views through picture windows at almost every turn, the result of their home's indoor-outdoor beauty gives the couple "a snug feeling," Kay says. "That's especially true while watching storms roll in. Or seeing whales during spring and fall migration." Oh, "and some glorious sunsets," Ron adds.

It's like meditation, Kay says. "You don't have to think. You just absorb nature, and get taken with that." But the most joy, she says, "is sharing it with others." ■

"The house lives and breathes as one with Ron and Kay. Together we designed a house that moved with them every hour of the day. It did more than accommodate who they were—it inspired who they could be."

— architect John Ash

Long Form: Cathedral-like vaulted ceilings throughout the home add drama, especially in the home's foyer (*right*). Here, large glass doors with slim mullions allow for a beautiful view of the Pacific, while adjacent windows—both exterior and interior—help reflect the outdoor splendor. The foyer's custom made furnishings, made of black acacia, Western curly maple, and yaka, were crafted by local artist Michael Kilpatrick. Across from the foyer is a long interior hallway (*below*), which, with a towering, slanted ceiling, offers a long-view of the raised garden area.

Cooking Up Fun: Expansive views of nature can be seen through large picture and angular clerestory windows in the open-design kitchen (*far top right*) and game room (*far bottom right*). In the former, golden oak cabinetry with Asian touches features modern Craftsman styling—a look also echoed in the game room cabinets. And "Verde Imperial" granite is a tribute to the natural colors around the home. Blue—reflective of the Pacific and sky—is the décor theme in the game room, which features a custom pool table designed by Golden West Billiard Manufacturing Company in Portland, Oregon. Throughout all the rooms, beamed ceilings add interest.

Get the Look

Architectural firm: John Ash, AIA, Eureka: 707/442-6125 or jagarchitects.com
Construction: Neal J. McKenny, Cutten: 707/445-8978
Tile/stone: Eel Valley Tile and Stone, Fortuna: 707/725-5701 or eelvalleytileandstone.com
Appliances Sub-Zero refrigerator/freezer, Wolf cooktop and ovens, KitchenAid trash compactor and microwave, Bosch dishwasher: Carl Johnson Co., 3950 Jacobs Ave., Eureka: 707/443-4851 or carljohnsonco.com
Cabinetry: Forbes Cabinets, Eureka: 707/445-1329
Foyer light: Lamps by Hilliard, 1433 11th St., Arcata: 707/826-1545 or hilliardlamps.com
Rugs: Himilayan Rug Traders, 529 Second St., Eureka: 707/268-8268 or tibetanrugtraders.com
Landscaping: Rudy Gutierrez Earthscapes Landscaping, Eureka: 707/726-0240
Local plants: Singing Tree Gardens, 5225 Dow's Prairie Rd., McKinleyville: 707/839-8777 or singtree.com; Bamboo & Maples Nursery, 2623 Harris St., Eureka: 707/445-1281 or bambooandmaples.com; Garden Gate, 905 H St., Arcata: 707/822-2156; Mad River Gardens, 3384 Janes Rd., Arcata: 707/822-7049; Miller Farms Nursery, 1828 Central Ave., McKinleyville 707/839-1571 or millerfarmsnursery.com; Fortuna Feed & Garden Center, 126 Dinsmore Dr., Fortuna: 707/725-3333 or fortunafeed.com; Arcata Farmer's Market, Arcata Plaza (Saturdays through Nov. 21)
Mirrors in garden: Marc Daniels, Ferndale: 707/834-3893
Iron elements: The Blacksmith Shop, 455 Main St., Ferndale: 707/786-4216 or ferndaleblacksmith.com
Audio: Sound Advice, 303 Fifth St., Eureka: 707/442-4462 or soundadviceonline.com

Layered Look: A pathway from the main courtyard leads to the raised garden, where rose-covered arbors create open doorways that serve to define the colorful outdoor living area (*right*). The nearby steps lead to an outdoor sitting area adjacent to the home's covered dining porch. (And around the home, lots of doors and windows help connect the inside with the outside.) Anchoring the view here is a Japanese maple surrounded by a mixed border of plantings.

Relaxed Setting: Thanks to the property's supreme site orientation, the home is afforded glorious views of the Pacific and the surrounding hillsides. That makes chaises for enjoyment a must (*bottom center*). The outdoor teak and cedar furnishings are fitting for the environment (and in some cases, even have a thin, beautiful layer of lichen growing on them). "I like the fact that the furniture has been aged. I don't want to have to stain it every year," Kay says.

Small Blessings: Kay and Ron take joy in the small moments that help them lead more fulfilling lives. The sunny glow of primrose *(below)* is a sweet look, as is the small stone lantern houses (*far right*) that give their miniature water garden added charm. "The miniature garden has been the most fun to grow," Kay says. "It started with the lantern houses, really. I started putting smaller things around them, and ultimately, I thought I should have everything be in miniature."

Mirror Image

The fairest of them all can remake a room

By Kim Cook

When Louis XIV decided that the royal palace at Versailles should have a huge Hall of Mirrors, his minister of finance saw an opportunity.

Jean-Baptiste Colbert, a fierce nationalist, was determined that Paris be able to compete with Venice in producing luxury products like silk, lace, and mirrors. He recruited Venetian artisans to come to Paris to craft all 357 of the hall's mirrors. They devised a method of pouring hot glass onto an iron table that allowed them for the first time to make really big mirrors.

Subsequently, with its elaborate ceiling art and solid silver tables, lamps, and orange tree pots, the magnificent 17th century hall was the setting for balls, births, and even the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

We don't live in glittering palaces, but many of us do tend to think of mirrors as a tad gaudy, a bit Vegas, and not a material we can decorate with easily. None of which need be true.

We might consider mirrors the way feng shui practitioners do. They see mirrors as serving three purposes: expansion, reflection, and deflection.

"Mirrors and mirrored furniture create visual depth and fool the eye into expanding a smaller room. They can also enhance the light in a darker room and overall add a little whimsy and sparkle," says Arcata designer Sandi Hunt, owner of Living Quarters Design Studio. "They are also great for a basement or room with no windows; they create the illusion of a window and break up the darkness."

In the ancient design philosophy of feng shui, mirrors serve an even greater function: It's believed that when a mirror reflects something good—such as a family portrait, pleasing scenery, or symbolic object—its positive effects are doubled. Bagua mirrors, on the other hand, are seen in feng shui as bad-energy deflectors used on the outside of the home.

Practically speaking, "One thing to consider when hanging mirrors is that you have to take a good, hard look at what is reflected," Hunt says. "Be careful that a hallway mirror doesn't reflect a bathroom, and a dining room mirror doesn't reflect the dishes in your kitchen sink."

That said, a mirror clad in a pretty or unusual frame will enliven the most basic room. "It's the one thing I almost always use," says designer and HGTV celebrity Will Smith. "Mirrors give a room an illusion of infinity."

Round mirrors can be especially smart looking. Pottery Barn has an Art Deco-style beveled glass beauty that hangs on a faux leather strap. Another is wrapped in sustainably harvested cherry tree bark. Meanwhile, Horchow offers a hand-painted, wood-framed mirror designed by Janice Minor that looks like it's bristling with porcupine quills.

And mirrors don't have to be hung. Prop one on a dresser or console with a few objects placed in front of it; you'll enjoy your things from two vantage points.

"Mirrors are great for dining rooms, especially above a buffet area," says Eureka designer Sandra Greenleaf, owner of Sandra Greenleaf Interior Design. "They're especially good for reflecting candle light at a formal dinner. You can also place a mirror in the back of your china cabinet to enhance the look of crystal, china, or silver dinnerware."

A large mirror placed at floor level in an entryway also comes in handy. Horchow's version features a mirrored frame, which helps bounce the light around.

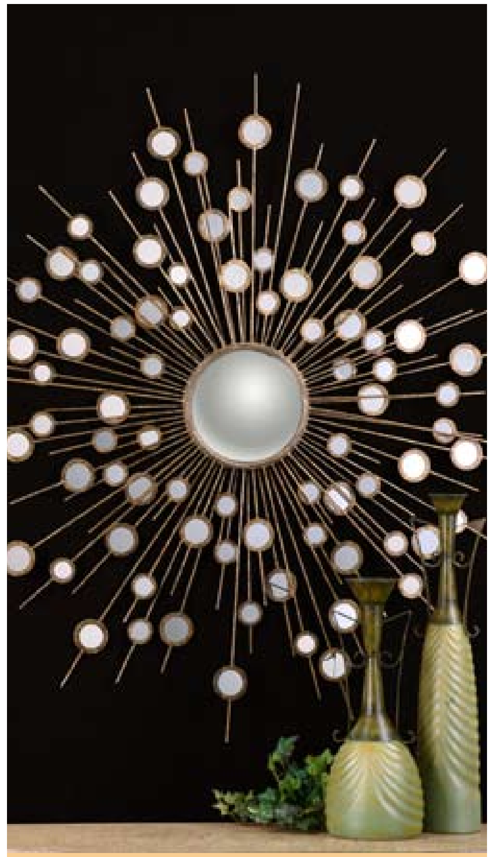
Sundance Catalog has a casement style framed in steel, reminiscent of old warehouse or country mill windows. And Seura, a Green Bay, Wis., firm, has adapted new technology to create a sleek mirror/television combination. Turned off, you have an attractively framed mirror, but press a button and the mirror morphs into an LCD TV screen.

Mirrored finishes also are turning up on dressers, shelving, backsplashes, candlesticks, even fireplaces as a relatively inexpensive way to add glamour and lightplay to a space. Just don't go overboard when using the reflective surfaces, Greenleaf advises.

"Mirrored furniture is a great new trend, but use it in moderation so it doesn't become overwhelming," she says. "One or two accent pieces is enough to really make a room pop."

— Kim Cook writes for The Associated Press. Caitlin Kelly contributed to this story.

Horchow's 79-inch floor mirror *(left)* helps open up a small space ($459; horchow.com). Uttermost's "Raindrops" mirror *(right)* creates a burst-of-light focal point wherever it hangs ($458; lumens.com).



Shining Moments

When decorating with mirrors, consider these tips from Sandra Hunt of Living Quarters Design Studio in Arcata:

- Because mirrors are generally heavier than most framed art, it's important to anchor the mirror in wall studs and use sturdy bolts to offer more support.
- Instead of using a single, larger mirror to dress up a room, try using a few smaller ones together in a group. Use mirrors that differ in size and shape, but have a similar finish or frame to tie them together.
- If you need to fill an empty wall in a room that already has a lot of different photos or paintings, a mirror can be a neutral accent without adding any additional colors or patterns.

— Caitlin Kelly

Do-It-Yourself Stealth

Many see long-term savings when they tackle often-costly projects themsleves

By Caryn Rousseau

Looking to save money? You're not alone. Many consumers are buying their own appliances and gadgets for tasks they used to hire professionals to do.

"Consumers are looking at the cost spread out over the long term," says Nissa Hanna, a consumer strategist for the trend research company Iconoculture. "Even though it is that $80 cost up front, that is going to save them a lot of money over the course of two years." She points to a recent Wal-Mart television commercial. It showed disposable cups from expensive coffee shops piling up and told viewers that if they bought a coffee maker they could save $470 a year.

"The economy has really caused consumers to feel that a lot is out of their control right now," Hanna says. "We see the DIY effort as a way to gain control and a sense of empowerment and self reliance." Tasks range from the small stuff, like cutting hair or steaming shirts, to big projects, such as home remodeling.

Consider six uses of everyday items that could save you money over time:

1. **Clip Your Own Hair:** Patrick Anello, marketing director at Wahl Clipper Corp. in Sterling, Ill. (consumer.wahl.com), estimates a $30 pair of hair clippers can save a family of four up to $500 a year on barbershop trips. Using the clippers also can stretch the amount of time between professional visits, he says. The company also makes pet grooming products. "Doing it in your own home costs nothing, or almost nothing," says David Ning, a blogger in Irvine, Calif., who recently bought a set of shears so his wife can cut his hair. "I would definitely continue to do it. Within a couple of months we'll recoup the costs and every time after that we're saving."

2. **Unclog Your Drains:** Avoid paying a plumber to come fix clogged drains. The FlexiSnake (flexisnake.com) is a 26-inch-long cord with a pad at the end that users can "snake" down drains. It snags whatever is clogging pipes to clear them. A pack of two FlexiSnakes runs about $8.

3. **Make Your Own Drinks:** The new company Soda Stream (sodaclub.com) sells a kitchen device that lets you carbonate your own seltzer water and soda. The startup kit costs between $80 and $100, and the company estimates that over time it will cost consumers about 25 cents for the equivalent of a can of soda. Meantime, The Artful Winemaker (artfulwinemaker.com) produces an at-home winemaking kit that lets you make 12 bottles at a time for a startup cost of $150, plus $60 a batch.

4. **Wash Your Own Car:** There are many car wash kits to choose from, and they provide everything you'd need to wash your own vehicle except water. Most include a bucket, sponges, and brushes, while others include a hose nozzle, soap, and waxes.

5. **Steam/Press Your Own Clothes:** Skip unnecessary trips to the dry cleaners with home clothing steaming systems. Haan Corp. (haanusa.com) makes a basic model that runs about $90 and lets you steam, clean, and take wrinkles out of clothes yourself. Company founder and CEO Romi Haan estimates that someone with one shirt, one pair of pants, one jacket, and a suit dry-cleaned each week would save $1,375 a year. "The steamer will pay for itself within just a couple of months," says Haan. "We're here to raise the quality of life for everybody. It's a durable product at a very affordable price." Meanwhile, Smartek USA makes a professional-quality pants presser that's just over 2 feet long and has multiple settings. Its retail cost is $148.

6. **Spa at Home:** More companies are producing salon-quality tools for home. Electronic pedicure spas are on the market that remove dry skin from feet, saving the $35 and up it can cost at a nail salon. There are also products that allow for at-home facial massages and facial cleansing.

— Caryn Rousseau writes for The Associated Press.

High-Impact, Low-Care Flair

A little bit of effort is all that's needed to create colorful, low-maintenance drama within your landscape

By Dean Fosdick

Time can be more precious than money for busy families, including those trying to stretch paychecks by growing their own table fare.

Having a collection of low-maintenance flowering plants can also be beneficial, even if they are limited to patios or windowsills.

"I'm constantly rethinking areas of my garden and seeking beautiful yet tough plants to replace demanding ones," says Tracy DiSabato-Aust in her *50 High-Impact, Low-Care Garden Plants* (Timber Press, 2008).

"These plants should not only be easy to care for, but they should bring passion and excitement into our lives with their colors, textures, shapes, and scents. It's great if a plant is easy to grow, but if it's of minimal ornamental value, who really cares?"

DiSabato-Aust has created a checklist of flowers and shrubs, as well as fruits and vegetables that combine toughness, beauty, and durability. These practical attributes can save gardeners hours of work.

Here are some suggestions for making gardening quicker and easier:

- Buy long-lived plants, perennials that once established don't need pampering, DiSabato-Aust says. Choose varietals that require little or no deadheading.
- Look for plants that are cold-hardy yet can endure long periods of heat and humidity.
  Buy plants and shrubs that don't require much fertilizer. "Most of these plants (on her checklist) don't require it," DiSabato-Aust says. "Twenty-five of the 50 are drought-tolerant."
- Find plants that are deer-proof and resist insects and disease, and natives that have adapted to local conditions. "That includes woodies and shrubs and trees and trophy plants," she says.
- Involve family members, especially children, so you can share the workload while spending quality time together.

"Gardening is an investment in our future while connecting us with our past," DiSabato-Aust says. "Our grandchildren will remember this. Plants can grow memories."

— Dean Fosdick writes for The Associated Press. You can contact him at deanfosdick@netscape.net.

"What makes a plant high impact? It should make a statement in multiple seasons because of its long-lasting bloom, its color, texture, form, or even fragrance. On top of that, it would be nice if it were somewhat theatrical."

— Tracy DiSabato-Aust

Some of Tracy Disabato-Aust's favorite low-maintenance accent plants are, from top left, allium "Purple Sensation" paired with bleeding hearts; miscanthus "Cosmopolitan"; giant coneflowers; and honeysuckle "Graham Thomas."

Looking for UFOs and Bigfoot are just two of the quirky pastimes you can enjoy throughout the region

Go Log Wild

July 29–August 2

Celebrate Rio Dell's rich logging heritage at **Wildwood Days**, a festival great for the whole family. Enjoy five action-packed days that include live music, logging competitions, fire truck rides, bocce ball tournaments, a fun-run, lawn mower races, poker tournament, and more. The festival ends with a performance by the Scotia band and fireman's gift auction. *Rio Dell; 707/764-3436 or riodellscotiachamber.org*

Happy Hiking

August 8–September 26

Embark on explorations through Humboldt County's majestic redwoods with a **Sanctuary Forest Hike**, held Saturdays in August and September. Take the opportunity to learn about the Mattole Valley forests and the creatures that dwell within. All hikes are free of charge, but donations to support the Sanctuary Forest are gladly accepted. *877/986-4453 or sanctuaryforest.org*

Photo: Thomas Stewart

Fair Minded

August 13–23

Don't miss the 113th annual **Humboldt County Fair**, decidedly the biggest party in the whole county. Located in Ferndale, the fair features carnival rides and games, live entertainment, horse racing, livestock events, and sheepdog trials. *Humboldt County Fairgrounds, 1250 5th Street, Ferndale; 707/786-9511 or humboldtcountyfair.org*

Out of This World

August 22

Hundreds will gather in Bridgeville for its annual **UFO Festival** on the historic bridge. The quirky celebration is famous for the flying saucer contest, in which teams launch homemade UFOs over the bridge and the flying objects are judged on accuracy, distance, and style. The festival also offers food, arts and crafts, a street fair, and live music. This event is free and open to the public. Bridgeville Community Center, Bridgeville; 707/777-1775

Photo: Fortuna Business Improvement District

Hops to It

August 29

Craving a beer? You're in luck—**Hops in Humboldt** will serve you some of the best microbrews in the state. Enjoy live music, arts and crafts, and tasty food as you sip on beer from 30 different breweries. And proceeds from the event benefit several different charities, so you can feel good about your contribution. Tickets are $25 in advance or $30 at the gate. *Rohner Park, Fortuna. 707/725-9261 or hopsinhumboldt.com*

Green Scene

August 30

Learn how to live a healthier life at the annual **Organic Planet Festival** in Eureka, Humboldt County's largest green event. This year's festival includes live music, organic food and drinks, workshops, the world's largest organic salad, a children's petting zoo, and various exhibits. Admission ranges from $10–$15, and children under age 12 get in free. *Halvorsen Park, Eureka; 707/445-5100 or organicplanetfestival.org*

Feelin' Blue

September 5–6

You can actually enjoy singin' the blues at **Blues by the Bay**, a two-day festival of art, food, beer, and, of course, music on Eureka's waterfront. Bring a blanket or low-back beach chair and scope out the best spot to kick back and enjoy the show. Tickets, available at the gate, are $45 for one day or $80 for two. *Halvorsen Park, Eureka; 707/445-3378 or bluesbythebay.org*

Big-Time Fun

September 5–7

Whether you believe in Bigfoot or not, one thing is for sure—you can't miss this celebration in his honor. Held in Willow Creek, the town with the largest Bigfoot museum, **Bigfoot Days** celebrates the elusive, mysterious, and definitely hairy figure with a parade, barbecue, kid's activities, an ice cream social, games, and contests. Willow Creek; 800/628-5156

Classic Cruisers

September 11–12

Classic car experts and rookies alike will make their way to Old Town Eureka for **Cruz' N' Eureka**, the annual classic car show. The event kicks off on Friday, Sept.11, with a barbecue and poker run, and ends with a cruise through Old Town and a sock hop. This two-day event also features a raffle, swap meet, and a silent auction. *Old Town Eureka; 707/496-9098 or cruzneureka.org*

Photo: Barbara Groom

Oyster-rific

September 12

Spend a memorable evening dancing and dining at Woodley Island Marina at the annual **Oysters and Ale** fest. This event showcases some of the best that Humboldt County has to offer—local oysters, beer, and live bands. Attendees can also enjoy wine, root beer floats, and a fundraiser auction benefiting the Eureka Skatepark. Tickets are $30. *Woodley Island Marina, Eureka; 707/825-6511 or oystersandale.org*

Glory Days

September 18-20

Civil War Days returns to Fortuna beginning Friday, September 18th through Sunday the 20th. The Reenactors of the American Civil War put on this event to raise public awareness and spark interest in this fascinating era. In between battles the public is invited to tour the camps, talk with Reenactors and see the representations of life in the 1860s. Admission is $8 for adults and $2 for children (subject to change). *Fortuna; 707/725-9261 or civilwardays.com*

Photo: *(top and above)* Fortuna Business Improvement District

Donna K. Bush

For Fortuna artist Donna K. Bush, painting is about getting back to nature. "You won't find me painting cities, cars, anything like that," she says. "It's all about the outdoors—what I've always loved." Her passion for all things natural drew her to The Lost Coast six years ago, and it inspired her to create her watercolor piece *Golden Koi Ballet*, a part of her *Living in Water* series. "There's something very intriguing about water, particularly the reflective quality," she says, "but it also makes it difficult to capture." Difficult, perhaps, but to the viewer, Bush's depiction of the jewel-toned koi pond feels absolutely effortless, easily capturing both the tranquility and energy of the constantly moving water and its inhabitants. Bush's art is available for viewing online at donnakbushwatercolors.com.

— Caitlin Kelly

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Our Space is Shaping Up!

Taking health care to new heights

When you are a patient at St. Joseph Hospital, we want you to feel at home - and right now our home is expanding to meet your needs!

St. Joseph Hospital is building a three-story state-of-the-art medical facility right here in Eureka. Scheduled for completion in 2011, the new patient tower will allow us to provide you and your loved ones with the highest quality health care.

St. Joseph Hospital serves people throughout Humboldt County and has grown tremendously since the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange arrived nearly a century ago. With the dramatic changes in the way health care is delivered, and advances in medical diagnosis and treatment, the current facility is in need of an expansion to better serve the community.

The new tower will include:

Lower Level: Emergency Department with 20 treatment bays; new reception and waiting area for patients and visitors; relocation of Central Sterile Department; Emergency Department Imaging with CT scan, radiology and ultrasound.

First Floor: Surgical suite with eight operating rooms and a catheterization lab; 17 prep and recovery beds; 10 beds in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit; and a new main entrance, lobby and waiting area.

Second Floor: 12 beds in the Intensive Care Unit; ICU waiting room and nurses' station; 40 patient care beds.

Shop & support! You can help support St. Joseph Hospital's construction project by donating at the register when shopping at the North Coast Co-op in Arcata and Eureka. Participate in the program by giving the donation number 82021 at checkout or just say you want to support St. Joseph Hospital. The Co-op adds 1 percent of your total to your bill, all of which goes directly to the SJH Foundation for Blueprint for Excellence.

Want to know the latest about construction?

Visit www.stjosepheureka.org - there you can watch an online tour of the completed expansion, or call the Construction Update line at 269-3650.

St. Joseph Hospital

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